

When a regime loses respect for its own people, its days are numbered.

As he has done with thousands of other Iranian freedom fighters, Ahmadinejad came after Mr. Abbasi. So Mr. Abbasi fled to Sweden. But when he did, Iranian authorities started going after his family still in Iran. So they fled too, but could only get to Iraq before being imprisoned by Iraqi authorities for not having their immigration papers. Now the Iraqi government wants to deport his daughter, Iman Abbasi, back to Iran, which is all but a death sentence for her. I talked to the State Department about Iman today and they are working on making sure that Iman is allowed to remain in Iraq until they can sort out her refugee status.

We have seen enough of Iraqi authorities doing favors for its neighbor to the East. At Camp Ashraf, a camp in the middle of the Iraqi desert full of freedom fighters from Iran, Iraqis and their Iranian buddies psychologically torture the residents. They put up dozens of loudspeakers surrounding the camp and shout at residents around the clock, telling them to go home to their motherland and stop being traitors.

We must send a clear message to Iraq: as long as it is ruled by the tiny tyrant and his henchmen, Iran is not a friend you can trust. If you side with them, then you side with oppression and tyranny. So stop imprisoning political refugees and stand up for the freedom that so many of our countrymen and yours have given their lives for.

RECOGNIZING THE ACTIVISM OF  
MS. YOLANDA DE VENANZI IN  
RAISING HIV/AIDS AWARENESS  
AND EDUCATION

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Yolanda De Venanzi and her efforts to raise HIV/AIDS awareness and education within the Hispanic community in South Florida.

Yolanda De Venanzi is an outreach worker with the Comprehensive AIDS Program of Palm Beach County, working within the Hispanic community to help promote HIV/AIDS awareness, testing, and prevention. Among her many activities, she organizes discussion groups and distributes literature throughout the County. Her efforts indeed reach far and wide, including barbershops, the El Sol migrant labor center in Jupiter, and the Caridad Center in Boynton Beach, which provides health services to Hispanic farm workers.

Furthermore, Yolanda also trains volunteers to spread information about HIV/AIDS prevention. One of her ideas that has proven extremely successful is recruiting drivers who work for the Golden Cab Company to distribute packets containing condoms and brochures about the disease. As with all volunteers, they are trained to discuss and promote behavior that helps prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. This creative approach is truly a stroke of genius.

A native of Venezuela, Yolanda has had a varied career, working as a psychology teacher and a mental health counselor. This experi-

ence has no doubt benefitted her in her work with the Comprehensive AIDS Program. In addition, she still teaches online classes in stress reduction and coping for Empire State College.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. De Venanzi's compassion, concern, devotion, and brilliance are to be lauded. Moreover, her efforts represent the kind of community activism that is key to addressing the serious public health challenge that is HIV/AIDS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 8, I was unavoidably detained due to celebration of the Greek Orthodox Epiphany. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF PETER  
PAPANICOLAOU

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Mr. Panayiotis (Peter) Papanicolaou, the distinguished President of the Cyprus Federation of America. Last month, Mr. Papanicolaou was being honored by the Asgata Association at its annual Dinner at Towers on the Green in Floral Park, New York.

Peter Papanicolaou was born and raised in Nicosia, Cyprus, where he received his primary and secondary education. Following two years of service with the National Guard of Cyprus, he came to the United States to pursue a higher education. He attended the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), enrolling in a special program for honors students. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Construction Engineering and Construction Management.

He launched his business career with a research position at NJIT, where he developed new technology for industrial sites and military bases for the cleanup of soils contaminated by toxins. He is now a principal of J.F. Contracting, a Brooklyn-based construction and engineering firm. He is professionally affiliated with the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers, and he is a member of the Civil Engineering Honor Society.

Peter Papanicolaou is the Supreme President of the Cyprus Federation of America, an umbrella organization for all Cypriot Americans. He is also president of the Archdiocesan Metropolitan Youth Choir, a member of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council, and a member of the Advisory Board of Queens College, the Saint Basil's Academy, the Albert Dorman Honors College at NJIT, and the Harvard School of Public Health. He is a member of the board of the Cyprus—U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Vice President of the Cyprus Children's Fund.

Peter is widely recognized as a leader with significant civic and humanitarian achievements. In 1995 he was named Businessman of the Year, Borough of Bronx and in 1996 he was presented with the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for his contributions to our national identity while preserving the distinct values and heritage of our ancestors. In 1998 he became an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, an honor conferred upon individuals for their services and dedication to the Greek Orthodox Church. He is a member of Leadership 100 and a founding member of the Faith Endowment of Orthodoxy. Peter was honored by various Greek American organizations, churches and professional associations.

Peter continues to serve tirelessly various causes of the Greek American community. He resides in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife Nasia. They have two daughters, Elizabeth and Elena.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise and join me in honoring Mr. Panayiotis "Peter" Papanicolaou, a great New Yorker and a great American who has made outstanding contributions to the civic life of our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning, Thursday, January 6, 2011, I was unable to record my presence on the Floor of the House at the quorum call, rollcall No. 7, because I was unavoidably detained in a meeting related to my role on the House Armed Services Committee.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERTO ALOMAR

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the greatest players in the history of baseball, Roberto Alomar. This week, Alomar was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, a recognition for the many years he played the sport at its very highest level.

To many, being a 12-time All-Star, a 10-time Gold Glove recipient and a four-time Silver Slugger and batting over .300 nine times would suffice, but for Roberto Alomar, these were simply milestones along his route to the Hall of Fame. Induction into the Hall of Fame is a time-honored tradition in America reserved only for the game changers. It is not merely that these men played the sport with superior skill, it is that they so often transformed the game and our conception of what is possible. Roberto Alomar revolutionized the position of second baseman. He combined offensive power and consistency with a range and fielding ability few had ever seen and fewer still have been able to emulate.

Roberto is part of a Puerto Rican baseball dynasty that deserves recognition, too. His father and brother, Sandy Alomar and Sandy Alomar Jr. had distinguished careers in Major